

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NAPLES 894

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: NAPLES AND ITS POLITICS: ELECTION OF A REPUBLICAN MAYOR

1. IN SOUTHERN ITALY NAPLES WAS THE ONLY PROVINCIAL CAPITAL WHERE THE COMMUNIST SCORED A PLURALITY OR RELATIVE MAJORITY IN THE JUNE ELECTIONS. FOR THIS REASON I BELIEVE IT APPROPRIATE TO REPORT ON THE ELECTION OF A REPUBLICAN MAYOR OVER THE WEEKEND AND TO ADD SOME BRIEF PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE CITY ITSELF.

2. ELECTION OF A MAYOR: WITH NONE OF THE MAJOR POLITICAL FACTIONS OR PARTIES GAINING A MAJORITY IN THE JUNE ELECTION THREE ALTERNATIVES WERE OPEN TO ADMINISTER THE CITY:

- A. APPOINTMENT OF A COMMISSIONER BY THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT;
- B. ELECTION OF A CANDIDATE FROM A MAJOR PARTY
- C. ELECTION OF A COMPROMISE CANDIDATE FROM A SMALL PARTY.

THE IDEA OF A COMMISSIONER WAS PROMINENTLY MENTIONED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE JUNE ELECTIONS BUT WAS RELEGATED TO THE BACKBURNER OWING TO THE SHORT-TERM NATURE OF SUCH AN APPOINTMENT UNDER THE LAW AND THE APPREHENSIONS ENTERTAINED BY ALL PARTIES CONCERNING THE RESULTS OF NEW ELECTIONS.

NEITHER OF THE TWO MAJOR PARTIES WAS ABLE TO OBTAIN SUPPORT TO ELECT ONE OF ITS OWN MEMBERS, AND THIS KNOCKED OUT OPTION TWO.

WITH HIS IMPRESSIVE CREDENTIALS, PRI CAPOLISTA PROFESSOR GIUSEPPE

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GALASSO SOON EMERGED AS THE "RIGHT MAN AT THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE

RIGHT TIME", AND A MAJORITY OF THE COUNCILORS PROCEEDED TO ELECT HIM MAYOR. (THE DC CAST BLANK BALLOTS AND MSI VOTED FOR ONE OF ITS OWN)  
3. PROFESSOR GALASSO IS NOW ATTEMPTING TO CARRY OUT THE MANDATE TO FORM A GIUNTA AND PRELIMINARY INDICATIONS ARE THAT HE HAS A GOOD CHANCE OF SUCCEEDING. ASIDE FROM HIS QUALIFICATIONS, THE REAL KEY TO HIS SELECTION AS MAYOR IS HIS WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT SUPPORT FROM A COALITION OF ALL PARTIES, EXCEPT THE MSI OF COURSE. ANOTHER IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION IN HIS SELECTION IS THE UNDERSTANDING HERE THAT THE PRI NATIONAL POLICY IS SUFFICIENTLY FLEXIBLE TO PERMIT ACCOMMODATION OF LOCAL ISSUES AND CIRCUMSTANCES. EVEN IF THIS UNDERSTANDING WERE INCORRECT, HOWEVER, PROFESSOR GALASSO POSSESSES

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THE PERSONAL PRESTIGE AND DETERMINATION TO ATTEMPT TO CARRY OUT HIS MANDATE. IN DOING SO, AND THIS IS NOVEL IN THE NEAPOLITAN WAY OF DOING THINGS, HE PLANS TO CONSULT WITH THE VARIOUS LABOR UNIONS, THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, THE INDUSTRIALISTS' UNION AND OTHERS.  
4. AT 46 PROFESSOR GALASSO IS A SCHOLAR AND WRITER WITH A NATIONAL REPUTATION. HIS COLLEAGUES AT THE UNIV. OF NAPLES WHERE HE IS A FULL PROFESSOR OF MODERN HISTORY AND DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF HUMANITIES SPEAK HIGHLY OF HIS INTELLECTUAL ABILITY, ASTUTENESS AS A PLANNER AND HIS COMMITMENT TO IMPROVING THE LOT OF HIS FELLOW-MEN. HE HAS BEEN AN IVP PARTICIPANT AND IS A SUPPORTER OF NATO.  
5. PERSONAL VIEW OF NAPLES: THE POPULAR NOTION IS THAT NAPLES IS A PICTURESQUE AND SENTIMENTAL CITY. ON THE SURFACE THIS IS TRUE. BUT TELLING IT LIKE IT REALLY IS--WITHOUT ILLUSIONS AND PREJUDICES--THE "REAL" NAPLES COMES THROUGH AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE AND POLITICAL MORASS, REEKING WITH MALADMINISTRATION AND SHOT THROUGH WITH CLIENTELISM AND PERSONALISM. ITS ECONOMIC STRUCTURE IS GERRY-BUILT AND IN LARGE MEASURE RESTS ON A FOUNDATION OF SMALL INDUSTRIES AND SWEAT SHOPS, WITH A VENEER OF OVERSTAFFED AND INEFFICIENT STATE ENTERPRISES. CONTRABAND AND VICE ARE THE ECONOMIC MAINSTAYS OF MORE THAN A TINY PART OF ITS POPULATION, WHICH INCLUDES UPWARDS OF

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300,000 UN-AND UNDEREMPLOYED. AS A NEO-FASCIST/MONARCHIST STRONG-CONFIDENTIAL

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HOLD WITH A COMMUNIST PLURALITY, IT REPRESENTS THE LEAST DEVELOPED WORLD OF EUROPE. WITH ITS BYZANTINE WAY OF LIFE, INGRAINED CONDITIONS AND TOUGH PROBLEMS, ENORMOUS POTENTIAL FOR IMPROVEMENT, ETC., ANY CG SHOULD FIND HIS WORK IN NAPLES MOST CHALLENGING AND REWARDING. I DO. COLANTONIO

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